

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 3 are presently pending in this application. Claim 1 is hereby cancelled.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-3 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Via the foregoing amendment, claim 1 is cancelled, and a portion thereof is incorporated into claim 2. The recitation of the rubber volume is omitted. Furthermore, pursuant to the Examiner's requirement, all occurrences of "(mm)" in claims 2 and 3 are hereby changed to -- in mm --, and -- in mm -- is inserted in claim 2 subsequent to "rubber gauge." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and reconsideration of the allowability of the amended claims.

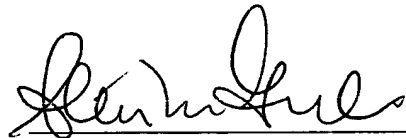
In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/501,990

ART UNIT 1733
Q82635

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (with the exception of the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any over-payments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

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